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NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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4th Infantry Division welcomes new Ivy Division senior enlisted leader during retreat ceremony June 15

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FORT HOOD, Texas – The 4th Infantry Division will welcome Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Gioia during a retreat ceremony 4 p.m. June 15 at the division's Cameron Field, which is located next to the division's headquarters building.

Gioia becomes the 16th senior enlisted leader to assume the mantle of responsibility as the Ivy Division's Command Sergeant Major, succeeding Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, who led the division during its deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Prior to joining the division, he served as the command sergeant major for the 7th Army Joint Multi-National Training Command, which is based in Grafenwoehr, Germany. His previous assignments have included participation in Operation Uphold Democracy in addition to serving as the command sergeant major of: Multi-National Brigade – East during Operation Joint Guardian 4B in Kosovo; Task Force 82nd during Operation Iraqi Freedom II in Ba'Qubah, Iraq; and 1st Infantry Division Engineer Brigade, Germany.

His military education includes the primary through advanced levels of the Noncommissioned Officers Education System. He is a graduate of the Keystone Course of the National Defense University, the United States Army Force Management Course, Master Fitness Course, First Sergeant Course, Battle Staff Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, and Pathfinder School, the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, and he earned an Associates Degree with Excelsior College in pursuit of a Baccalaureate Degree in Management.

His awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal-6, Army Commendation Medal-9, Army Achievement Medal-4, Good Conduct Medal-8, Kosovo Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals, Korean Defense Medal, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and Pathfinder Badge. He also earned the Royal Australian Parachutist Badge and the German Schutzenschnur. He is a recipient of the Army Engineer Association's DeFleury Medal and Armor Association's Order of St. George and is a member of the prestigious Sergeant Morales and Sergeant Audie Murphy Clubs.

Gioia is married to the former Fay Shaeffer, of Apollo, Pennsylvania. They have been married for more than 20 years and have two daughters, Katie, 19, and Britney, 16.

MEDIA NOTE:

Released as a courtesy to the 4th Infantry Division by III Corps Public Affairs, Fort Hood, Texas.

News media representatives interested in attending the ceremony are asked to call the 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office at (254) 287-7014 no later than 3 p.m.

June 14, to confirm attendance. Please provide the following information:

Name of organization; personnel attending and contact phone numbers.

Public Affairs representatives will meet media members at the Fort Hood main entrance 3 p.m. June 15.